

**Affordable Housing Coalition
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2013**

1. Welcome/Intro/Announcements:

- a. Steve O'Neil has an aggressive form of thyroid cancer. Keep him in your prayers and keep working to help folks get housing.
- b. MHP and Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers having a day on the hill, Thursday April 4. Fliers we passed around.
- c. Schedule for AHC education sessions was passed around as well.
- d. Salvation Army is continuing the dental vans work. Call Dan Moore for more info. Smiles Across MN is focusing on elementary kids now, but is not able to handle middle and high school students at this time.
- e. LSS is designated as a national Safe Place—training businesses and nonprofits on how to help youth in crisis. 5 sites trained now—hoping to have 25 trained by the end of the year.
- f. Postcards for legislators are available for Homes for All initiative. It's more of a thank you effort because our legislators are so good on this issue.
- g. Martin Lepak announced his transition to Arrowhead Transit with AEOA as a transportation advocate. Recruiting rural drivers to help folks in the region get where they need to go—drivers are reimbursed weekly for mileage.
- h. There is an effort at present to push the bonding bill with legislators. Please help push this.
- i. Maude Dornfeld just started as Life House Executive Director. Welcome Maude!
- j. Community Action Duluth's Investment Basics event is tomorrow from 6—8 PM
- k. Empower event is this Saturday at the DECC from 9—3:30 PM. 6 different workshops ranging from going to college to planning your estate to buying a home.
- l. Community Action's FAIM program has openings after a long period of no funding (200% of poverty or below).
- m. Community Action orientation session fliers passed around as well—happening 4 times per month.

2. Review and Approve February Minutes and March Agenda:

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Balance is \$1,528.59. \$100 in member dues realized this month. Paid out \$250 to HRA for exhibits for Duluth Days. Dues received from 16 members. Dues paid list was passed around.
4. **AHC Leadership Discussion:** Sarah updated all on leadership changes with Martin having to resign. Looking for people interested to be on the executive committee (looking for vice chair and non-note-taking secretary).
5. **AHC Leadership Process Affirmation Vote:** Erich Lutz moved, Lynn Barbe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Vote on Chair:** Pam Kramer moved, and Lynn Barbe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
7. **Seaway Hotel Update:** Funding is still not finalized for repairs. Minor repairs are happening. City reinspected this month. Owner has until November to make all repairs. Fines from police calls now total more than \$6,000. Many calls are about fighting (it's thought that better management would keep this from happening so much). City is frustrated because this is not moving along. Training has happened for the management by Homeline. City is looking into using the Tenant Remedies Act. Tenants are excited for change. CHUM and Loaves and Fishes want to make sure background checks do

not get so tight that hardest to house folks can still get in there. Hard to House Subcommittee—Center City is interested in hiring a consultant to help identify what could happen to move this along and look into other models for this population. There will be a meeting at 10AM on March 26 at Gemadji for service providers (keep to 1 per agency) to discuss creating a summit to discuss what current needs are for next steps for hardest to house people.

8. **Heading Home St. Louis County Leadership Council:** Lynn Gerlach-Collard lgerlach@lssmn.org
Lynn provided an overview of the Council. Purpose: Formed due to the Hearth Act – (set of laws that govern homeless funding and initiatives—including CoC and ESG, how money is disbursed and governed. Must have local board that oversees, State of MN – Heading Home MN – umbrella, Heading Home SLC—the body that created 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, that made sure the plan got implemented, monitored, look at needs, services, gaps, how changes need to occur, LC is comprised of AHC Rep, Rural Housing Coalition rep, Veteran Rep, State of MN Rep, UWS Rep, School District Rep. Discussion on big picture landscape, meets every month – open meeting, minutes are available – LC makes recommendations on FHPAP, CoC, ESG. Lynn and Adam from the Range have conflict of interest, but abstain on votes that pose conflict on funding etc. If SLC doesn't comply with Hearth Act, then SLC would lose homeless funding. Leadership Council is a requirement of the Hearth Act. Data, HMIS a part of the picture. Open up HMIS system – bring funds together, coordinate better, agencies work together. Lynn represents us – AHC – still learning role. All reps are committed, dedicated and responsible. LC to do site visits to learn more about provider agencies. Community process and discussion is required by SLC to apply. LC is volunteer basis. With funding cuts, decisions to make that are least harmful – data drives this. A formerly homeless person is a rep on the LC. Process is evolving. Come to Lynn if you have concerns—uncomfortable with anything. LC is not meant to be scary group. LC appointed reps, learning, making recommendations, volunteering – want coordinated assessment work. Minutes are available on SLC website Housing Emergency Assistance And Rapid Transistion to Housing Act . The Leadership Council meets on the 4th Wed of the month at Cotton Townhall, at 11am. Laura D. is staff for LC.

9. **Work Plan Follow-up/Review/Reorganization:** Do vetting and checking of items (original or newly added)

Two lists – advocacy/platform and action/To-Do

To-Do

Bi-Laws or Charter

Evaluation of Housing Projects

Education of AHC (Agency Presentations)

Landlord-Tenant Relations Work

Homeless Response – Coordinated Assessment

Homeless Outreach – expansion – volunteers needed

Supportive /Support Services (sub) Committee

Heading Home SLC – Evaluate Plan & Make Compliance Changes (state + fed)

Advocate for designated Payees – SSI Policy Change

Advocacy –

Get ppl from Homeless Response + Supportive Services Folks to join Advocacy Cmm

Continue Hardest to House Planning (to-do and move to platform by June)

Postcard to Legislators on policy items

Track and Weigh-in on City, County, State, Federal Planning and Policy Creation (use comment periods) Examples:

QAP, CDBG, HOME, ESG, Workforce Housing Initiatives, Needs and Gaps (HUD) PIT/HIC

Wilder Study (presentation)

At Home/ Foreclosure/ Neighborhoods Revitalization Plans

Platform/Advocacy

Home for All Legislative Work
Landlord-Tenant Relations Work
Next Year's Plan – Revisit
Staff Support for AHC

10. **City/County Staff Discussion Items:** Capitol fund for development –service grant from partners grant looking for applicants, Center City, Boise Fort, AEOA expressed interest - GMHF

11. **Project Coordination/Prioritization Criteria:** No Report, No Rick Ball

12. **Landlord-Tenant remediation services update:** Matt Traynor

13. Agency Work/Activity Presentations

Deb Wagner – Duluth Public Schools: Website – data, tips, points... deb.wagner@duluth.k12.mn.us
Families in Transition – helpful links for educators, FAQ's , tip sheets, videos info available for anyone, families and youth doubling up – biggest increase. Permanently housed--transitional housing counts, then transportation and supportive assistance is lost. 1st job – get enrolled, then help attend (bus pass). Congdon shift--seeing more homeless youth--Safe Haven in district of Congdon. Magnet transportation, bussing to Nettleton, Lowell, xx, was lost and put into integration specialists. Currently have 384 kids in *FiT* program--preschool age the biggest growing group--numbers are larger than last year at June.